



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FORMER MORTGAGE LOAN ORIGINATOR
CHARGED WITH BANK FRAUD**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that the United States Attorney's Office has filed an Information charging John W. Flowers with one count of bank fraud. Flowers waived his right to have the charge presented to a federal grand jury. Flowers, age 57, of Wilmington is a former mortgage loan originator with Wilmington Trust Company.

U.S. Attorney Connolly noted that the charge against Flowers alleges that between 1991 and September of 2003, he withdrew funds from an internal Wilmington Trust Company account and deposited them into his own account. During the time period this scheme was in effect, Flowers made withdrawals from the Wilmington Trust account and corresponding deposits into his own account every month, except for August, 1999 when no thefts occurred. The amounts taken in each instance varied between \$2,500 and \$9,900, and the number of thefts in any given month varied between one and three. The total loss is estimated to be \$1.4 million. No Wilmington Trust customer accounts were affected. If convicted, Flowers faces a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment, a fine of \$1,000,000, or both, as well as restitution.

The thefts were discovered by bank security officers who brought the case to the attention of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service, who then conducted the investigation leading to the filing of the charge today.

U.S. Attorney Connolly thanked the Wilmington Trust Company for its cooperation in the investigation which led to the federal charge filed today. He also thanked and commended the efforts of Special Agent Darryl Goss of the Secret Service and Assistant United States Attorney Ferris W. Wharton for investigating and prosecuting the case.

For further information, please contact Theresa Jordan of the United States Attorney's Office at 302-573-6277, ext. 117.

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